(ग) से (ङ) कोयले की पर्याप्त आपूर्ति के कारण चालू वर्ष के दौरान कोककर कोयले की कमी होने की कोई संभावना नहीं है । चालू वर्ष के लिये जिस मांग का अनुमान किया गया था उससे वास्तविक मांग कम है जिसके कारण कोयले के उत्पादन में नीच की ओर संशोधन किए जाने की आवश्यकता है तथापि कोककर कोयले का उत्पादन मांगा से कम है और कोयले के भंडारो की प्रकृति के कारण इसमें वृद्धि होने की सीमित सभावना ही है ।

Denationalisation of. coal sector

1869. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL lie pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to denationalise the coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the legislative measures will be initiated to give effect to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) No_r Sir. However, Ministry of Coal propose to make amendment to Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow coal mining by Indian companies * without the existing restriction of captive consumption. The proposal does not involve privatisation of any of the existing coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) or of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Low Productivity in underground mines

1870. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that low productivity in underground mines is an important constrant affecting the profitability of the coal sector and the output per man shift has stagnated around 55 tonnes for the last two decades despite massive investments made in mechanisation of underground mines; and

(b) the action planned by Goven-meht in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SATE OF I THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The low productivity in undeground mines is an important constraint affecting the profitability of coal sector. The output per manshift in underground mines has not shown any marked improvement as has been with opencast mines. For the last few years the underground output per manshift has remained between 0.53 to 0.57 tonnes.

(b) Following measures are being taken to improve production from the underground mines of Coal India Limited :

(i) Adoption of intermediate technology of using mechanical loaders like side discharge loaders and load haul dumpers at coal face in underground mines.

(ii) Introduction of modern tech-nology in selective UG mines.

(iii) Impovement in UG mechanised longwall face performance through better back up of spares and system improvement.

(iv) Improved working conditions in mines through better lighting, ventilation and communication .

(v) Introduction of "All man all job" concept wherever feasible.

(vi) Improvement in power supply particularly to mines in eastern region and setting up captive power plants in selected location, and